

Thue, Singer victorious

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By DAVID MOSER
L-P Sports Writer

SASKATOON — Regina is Sask Sport's 1992 city-of-the-year.

Athletes from Regina swept all four categories Friday at Sask Sport's annual awards luncheon held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

"We have an excellent program in Regina in all sports," said Rob Currie, who won in the master athlete division. "Our master program in rowing has quite a friendly rivalry with Saskatoon. That's created a great social atmosphere and a great competitive atmosphere."

Wrestler Jeff Thue, who won a silver medal in the freestyle heavyweight division at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, won for the second consecutive year in the male athlete-of-the-year division. The other finalists were race walker Tim Berrett and fencer Allan Francis, both from Saskatoon, who also competed at the 1992 Summer Olympics.

World champion baton twirler Stacy Singer won in the female athlete division. Singer, a five-time world junior champion, had been nominated for the Sask Sport award for five straight years and this marked the first time she won it. Singer is also a finalist for the 1992 Canadian sport awards in the junior women's division. She has won that award three times.

Singer was chosen over tae-kwon-do athlete Dawn Birley of Regina and rower Tracy Duncan of Saskatoon.

"I'm flattered with the recognition," said Currie, who won two gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the Canadian Masters'



Leader-Post photo by Robert Watson

Mitchell Zentner and Cory Wizniuk get Jeff Thue's autograph

Sports Festival in Regina. "In sport, it is often a team effort and there have been a lot of people — whether in the boat with me or on shore supporting the program — who enabled me to be successful."

Other master athlete finalists were speed skater Kenn Thomson of Moose Jaw and cyclist Irene Kokotailo of Saskatoon.

The Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club was named team-of-the-year. The other finalists were the Regina Razors Special Olympic floor hockey team and the

Saskatchewan ATA Trapshooting team.

Murray Drudge, head coach of the Dolphins club that was named the top age-group club in Canada, said winning the awards show that the city is innovative in its sports programs.

"(Regina) has come into its own recently," Drudge said. "I like to think that with Regina and the Dolphins that we have spurred other clubs across Canada with the team-comes-first philosophy. You can do individual things through a team

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

SASK SPORT ATHLETE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Year	Male	Female	Team	Master
1992	Jeff Thue	Stacy Singer	Regina Optimist Dolphins	Rob Currie
1991	Jeff Thue	Fiona Cribb	Saskatoon Hilltops	Susan Leier
1990	Justin Abdou	Rhonda Holt	U of S Huskies	Judy Warick
1989	Jeff Makohon	Shannon Kekula	Swift Current Broncos	—
1988	James Rozon	Gina Smith	Sask. Wheelchair Paralympic Team	—
1987	Clayton Gerein	Nancy Jewitt-Filteau	Regina Rams	—
1986	Ron Moncur	Ellen Gillies	Regina Rams	—
1985	Rueben Mayes	Gwen Wall	Prince Albert Raiders	—
1984	Rueben Mayes	Alison Long	Weyburn Red Wings	—

NOTE: Master awards first presented in 1990.

mentality.

"With the swimmers, if they win a medal without their teammates to recognize what they did, there's a hollowness. It's an honor to win this in front of the whole province and all the other sports."

Thue added: "I'm from Regina and I've always been partial to it. It turned out very good for me at the Olympics. It could have worked out the same for the other guys (Francis and Berrett.) There's no reason I'm more deserving than they are. It might be a popularity contest."

Other two-time winners of the Sask Sport awards have been football player Rueben Mayes (1984 and 1985, both as top male athlete), the Regina Rams (1986 and 1987 in the team division) and Clayton Gerein (1987 for male athlete and 1988 as a member of the provincial Paralympic team).

"Regina has just as many good athletes as anywhere else," Singer said.



Thue



Singer

The 15-year-old baton twirler was not bitter that the award — which is voted on by the presidents of the province's 71 sport governing bodies, the provincial media and the members of the

Awards and Recognition committee — had overlooked her four times.

"It's just a matter of their own opinion," Singer said. "I've done all I could to win this award. If I didn't win, there was nothing I could do."

"I don't resent it. I don't regret not being picked the last few years. I'm glad I won this year. I feel bad for the people who have to vote. It must be a hard decision to say twirling is better than tae-kwon-do or rowing or whatever."

"If I hadn't won, I wouldn't have been disappointed. Other people would have been more disappointed than me. I was happy to be a finalist."

The awards ceremony will be televised in Regina on CKCK-TV on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.